

IHS Injury Prevention Program



California Area Indian Health Service

IHS has Funding and Courses Available to Train your Staff

The Indian Health Service has funding for your staff to attend the IHS Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Injury Prevention (IP) courses. Each of these 32 hour courses have been recently updated and have been offered over the last two years with great success. Participant evaluations have been very positive and student suggestions have been incorporated to make the learning experience even better. The courses are integrated and build on each other to provide injury prevention practitioners with a set of take-home skills and practical knowledge. This approach assists graduates with delivering effective IP programs at the community level.

Each of the courses are taught using “Adult Learning” principles and provide the students with ample time to practice with exercises to master the 7 core topics. The core topic threaded through the courses are:

- ◆ Public Health Approach to IP
- ◆ Program Design and Implementation
- ◆ Coalitions and Collaborations
- ◆ Program Evaluations
- ◆ Injury Data
- ◆ Marketing and Advocacy
- ◆ Program Management

Attendees in these courses use case studies and work in groups to construct “Power Point” presentations to illustrate solutions for practical injury problems. At the end of the 3rd course (advanced), students practice giving press interviews to promote injury programs. The courses are scheduled throughout the year in a variety of locations. Interested persons should contact Robert Newsad (916-930-3981) for more information on how to sign up for these courses.

Myla Jensen Presents Fellowship Project in Atlanta

In May 2003, California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) Injury Prevention Program Coordinator, Myla Jensen, presented the research that she did as part of her year-long participation in the IHS Fellowship program. Myla studied the methods used by hospital staffs in California to identify Indian people when reporting injuries. The recommendations from this project could be very important in planning future direction for more accurate reporting of race for seriously injured persons.



Myla Jensen from CRIHB with Admiral Gary Hartz at the 2003 IHS Fellowship Presentation Symposium in Atlanta

For more Information on the IHS Injury Prevention Program contact:

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Capacity Building

Another Successful NHTSA Course held in May 2003

IHS sponsored another National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration Child Passenger Technician Course May 20-23, 2003. IHS had previously sponsored NHTSA certification courses in 2000 and 2001. The course was taught by Buckle Up Baby in Auburn. Technician certification continues to be important in keeping up with the latest developments. Funding agencies such as AAA will only supply seats to programs with certified technicians on staff.



The University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research staff providing assistance to tribes includes: (L-R) Robert Letourneau, Molly Cannon and Dr. Carolyn Crump

University of North Carolina Provides Technical Assistance

The IHS contracts with the University of North Carolina (UNC) Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC) to provide a variety of services in Indian Country. This arrangement has been in place for over 5 years and has developed into an important resource for tribes and Indian health providers. The UNC staff monitors the 29 programs that are participating in the IHS injury prevention capacity building projects. As a result of monitoring these tribal IP programs, the UNC staff have traveled extensively throughout all 12 IHS areas and have been able to support many grassroots injury prevention efforts. The perspectives that the UNC staff have obtained helps them provide relevant suggestions to tribal IP staff. By seeing what has worked and not worked, first hand at the provider's sites, the UNC staff can provide contacts for most injury prevention topics or problems facing tribal programs.

Along with providing technical assistance in the field, the UNC staff: publishes a newsletter three times a year on injury prevention in Indian country; coordinates the revision of the three IHS short courses and fellowship programs; and designs and delivers an annual conference for the 29 capacity building grantees.



Barbara Hart from CRIHB provides assistance at the car seat checkup point that was held at the end of the May 2003 course

Training

All IHS Injury Prevention Courses Freshly Updated

Many California Indian health care providers have attended IHS injury prevention training over the last two decades. During the last three years, the IHS has contracted with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to assist our staff in making our injury prevention training program even better. The resulting new courses have met with great approval and exceptionally high evaluations from the first graduating students.

UNC evaluated tribal needs and identified seven core topics as key to injury prevention practitioners. These core topics are explored in a progressive manner throughout the three courses. The presentation of the subject matter allows students to build on each course. The closely intertwined curriculum incorporates the latest practical information and approaches that have been proven to reduce injuries in Indian Country.

The highly-acclaimed IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship training program has also been modified. There are now two tracts: (1) Program Development and (2) Epidemiology. These fellowship programs take the scope of IP training further to provide advanced learning from leading experts at top injury prevention research centers. The IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship is recognized as one of the top injury prevention training programs in the world. The IHS is able to fund students to attend these trainings.



Regina Roman from the Native American Health Center in Oakland custom fits a car seat during the May 2003 NHTSA Course



Students Learn and Practice Seat Belt Use Observation Protocols in the Introduction to Injury Prevention Course. (Sacramento 2002)

Some Upcoming IHS Courses

<i>Introduction to Injury Prevention (Level 1)</i>	
Oneida, Wisconsin	April 13-16
<i>Introduction to Injury Prevention (Level 1)</i>	
Spokane, Washington	April 27-30
<i>Introduction to Injury Prevention (Level 1)</i>	
Phoenix, Arizona	May 3-6
<i>Intermediate Injury Prevention (Level 2)</i>	
Duluth, Minnesota	May 18-21
<i>Intermediate Injury Prevention (Level 2)</i>	
Albuquerque, New Mexico	August 17-20

Injury Prevention Programs for Head Starts

The American Indian Head Start Programs Branch, Indian Health Service, National Highway and Traffic Administration (NHTSA), and the United States Fire Administration are collaborating on efforts to implement special initiatives to reduce deaths and injuries from fires and motor vehicle crashes. Two separate programs have been developed to address these injury problems through head start programs.

Sleep Safe

The goal of the Sleep Safe program is to reduce the rate of fire and burn injuries among AI/AN children enrolled in Tribal Head Start Programs. The objectives for the Sleep Safe program include:

- ◆ Provide a fire safety curriculum module for the head start.
- ◆ Provide smoke detectors for each child's home.
- ◆ Provide project implementation training for at least one head start staff member.

In addition, the US Fire Administration and the Indian Health Service have produced a fire safety video



entitled, "Practicing Home Fire Safety." This 9 minute video features American Indians in the cast and was produced specifically for use in conducting American Indian and Alaska Native fire safety

projects. The video follows an American Indian family as they make a comprehensive fire safety plan for their home. ***Please contact Robert Newsad if you would like a copy of this video.***

Website Information: <http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/InjuryPrevention/sleepsafe.pdf>

Ride Safe

Ride Safe aims to reduce motor vehicle related injuries to children enrolled in tribal head start programs. The objectives for the Ride Safe program include:

- ◆ Provide funding and support for at least one head start staff member to complete a NHTSA Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician training.
- ◆ Provide a one to two-day CPS training for all Head Start staff who participate in Ride Safe activities.
- ◆ Educate parents and childcare providers about proper child restraint use.
- ◆ Provide a car seat or booster seat for each child enrolled in head start.
- ◆ Conduct follow-up home visits to educate parents and other caregivers about proper car seat use and to reinforce positive child passenger safety messages.
- ◆ Gather community child restraint use data.
- ◆ Promote community awareness to reduce motor vehicle crash injuries.



Website Information: <http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/InjuryPrevention/ridesafe.pdf>

Keeping California Tribes on the Injury Prevention Radar Screen

Norma McAdams from the Hoopa Tribe continues to promote injury prevention. She is the California representative on the IHS National Injury Prevention Tribal Steering Committee. This committee has been formed to voice tribal concerns and interests on injury prevention issues. Norma has been very active on this committee and serves on many of the sub committees. Only through continued exposure of the California Indian injury prevention programs will our funding continue. Please contact Norma for more information:

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